

We claim:-

1. A process for an electrochemical reduction of a reducible dye by contacting said reducible dye with a cathode comprising a support of an electrically conductive material and an electrically conductive, cathodically polarized layer formed thereon in situ by alluviation, which comprises conducting said electrochemical reduction in the presence of a base.
2. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein said cathodically polarized layer comprises said reducible dye.
3. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein said cathodically polarized layer includes a metal, a conductive metal oxide or a carbonaceous material or a mixture of two or more thereof.
4. A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3, wherein said cathodically polarized layer includes a metal, a conductive metal oxide or a carbonaceous material or a mixture of two or more thereof and of said dye to be reduced.
5. A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4, wherein said cathodically polarized layer comprises a metal of the Ist, IIInd or VIIIth transition group of the Periodic Table of the Elements, in each case as a free metal or as a conductive metal oxide, or a mixture of two or more thereof.

6. A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 5, wherein said cathodically polarized layer includes a metal or a conductive metal oxide or a mixture of two or more thereof, each on activated carbon.
- 5 7. A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 5, wherein said cathodically polarized layer includes Raney nickel, Raney cobalt, Raney silver, Raney iron or Raney copper.
- 10 8. A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 7, wherein said support of electrically conductive material is porous.
- 15 9. A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 8, wherein said reducible dye is selected from the group consisting of vat dyes and sulfur dyes.
- 20 10. A process as claimed in claim 9, wherein said vat dye is selected from the group consisting of indigo, indigoid dyes, anthraquinonoid dyes, phthalocyanine dyes, naphthalene dyes, Immedial dyes and leuco vat dye esters and also mixtures of two or more thereof.
- 25 11. A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 10, wherein said base is selected from the group consisting of alkali metal and alkaline earth metal hydroxides, carbonates, bicarbonates and alkoxides and also mixtures of two or more thereof.
- 30 12. The method of using an electrochemically reduced reducible dye prepared according to a process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 11 for coloring
- 35 objects.